

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

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UP-TOWN OFFICE, 43 EAST BROAD STREET.
MANCHESTER OFFICE, 133 HULL STREET.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1893.

Is it a Complete Surrender?

At a meeting of the Republican County Committee of Rockingham county held in Harrisonburg recently the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, 1. That in view of the present unjust and unfair election laws in Virginia, and the methods pursued thereunder by the Democratic party, which have full control of the election machinery, it would be unjust to the Republicans of this county under present conditions to impose upon them the labor, trouble and expense of a political campaign.

Resolved, 2. We deem it inexpedient for the Republican party of this county to nominate candidates for the Legislature to be contested for in the coming election, therefore:

Resolved, 3. That the Republican party of Rockingham county will make no nominations and give no candidates for the Legislature for the year 1894 to be elected on the 7th day of November, 1893.

Rockingham county can boast, we suppose, that the Republican party there has more strength among the white voters than in any other county in Virginia. Why have the Republicans of that county professed to abandon the field and taken themselves to the woods, there to live in inglorious idleness, whilst the Populists take up the work of defeating the Democratic party and endeavor to prosecute it to a successful termination? Is it because the Populist candidates for office are better than those whom the Republicans could present? Certainly not. It is because the highly-respectable Republicans of Rockingham cannot afford to compromise themselves by mounting such a platform as that upon which the Populists stand? At any rate, there is more in the resolutions quoted above than appears on the surface. It was not without some concealed motive that the Republicans of Rockingham decided not to name any candidates for the Legislature. They will no doubt come to the conclusion before election day that the Populist candidates are better entitled to their support than the Democratic candidates. Beware of these Republicans, whether in Rockingham or elsewhere. They are deadly enemies of the Democratic party and of the Jeffersonian principles which justify the extension of that party.

There is a pretty severe rebuff upon Mr. Cooke, the Populist candidate for Governor, to the effect that the Anderson-MacCorkle law is "unjust and unfair" and its machinery entirely under the control of the Democratic party. Surely Mr. Cooke can throw some light upon this subject. What "methods" have been pursued under that law which Mr. Cooke cannot successfully defend?

The Republicans of Rockingham are evidently willing to profit by the labors of the Populists, but do not intend to commit themselves in any way to the wild theories advanced by the new party. A Legislature chosen by Populists and Republicans would be a plebeian body. It would be neither "fish, flesh, nor good red herring."

But will the people of Virginia prove themselves willing to commit the great interests of this old Commonwealth to the care of such officials? Never. The sober second thought of even the Rockingham people will induce some of them to recall the majority which the Democratic candidates will receive.

Wake Up, Richmond Democrats.

We join our city contemporaries in urging Democrats to go to the headquarters of the City Democratic Committee and arrange for their transfers, in cases where transfers are needed, by a very brief way to arouse them to this duty and to all duties of the campaign to be given them together at meetings and have good speakers to address them.

We are never in so much danger as when we take too much for granted.

We are never in so much danger as when we fear the enemy least.

It has been stated that Judge Walter R. Staples will speak here soon. We trust that this is true. He can entertain an audience well, and each man who hears him will have something substantial to think over for weeks to come.

Let us have a series of meetings in Richmond and secure for them the ablest speakers obtainable. Each speaker who proposes to discuss the general questions of the day wants the evening to himself in which to elaborate carefully the views which have come to him as the result of careful study. But there may be other useful meetings—such as that to be held in Fulton to-morrow night—where two or three speakers can arrange to divide the time and the topics too.

Let the Richmond Democrats bestir themselves and have meetings "all along the line." One meeting might well be arranged where our legislative candidates would come forward and present their views of the campaign in ten-minute speeches.

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And the trouble would be removed at once if depositors in the banks were protected as note-holders are. There are hundreds of millions of dollars now lying unproductive in old stockings, private purses, strong boxes, and wherever money can be safely deposited, and these millions of dollars would forthwith be put into the channels of trade and commerce—that is, reduplicated in banks—where they could be deposited there with the certainty that the banks would pay every dollar entrusted to them. Try this remedy, and no other will be needed.

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Where a criminal is able to secure good counsel who will fight his case persistently from court to court the ends of justice—justice as the people see it—are too often defeated, and it is this which takes from the courts that degree of respect which they should hold in the estimation of the public. It is this which sometimes leads to lynch law.

Without a doubt our criminal code needs simplifying. We believe that the State Bar Association have a committee on the subject, and if so they should hurry up their work. While the people see the evil only men learned in law can prescribe for its cure. So-called "technical" excuses may go to the root of our system of justice. The knife, therefore, can only be safely applied by expert hands; but that the knife is needed seems to admit of no doubt.

Justice ought to be sure and speedier. No one asks that any of the safeguards necessary for the protection of innocence be thrown down, but it does seem reasonable to ask that the power which makes our laws shall provide the means of enforcing them.

The public can make known its opinion and demand reform, but the work of criminal-law revision must be the work of members of the bar; men who know what are "technical" excuses and what are not. Let us hope that the Bar Association will give earnest attention to this matter at once. Something ought to be attempted in the way of reform at the coming session of the General Assembly.

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This is sound doctrine. It is a question which we have been pressing upon the attention of the people of Virginia and her representatives for a long time. We have plain sailing on the subject ourselves, holding the views that we do; but we cannot imagine how anybody can hold that Congress has no constitutional power to levy customs-duties except for purposes of revenue only, and at the same time hold that Congress has power under the Federal Constitution to levy customs-duties intended to protect the tobacco interests of Virginia. The tariff on tobacco is to all intents and purposes a protective tariff. This, however, we do not care to insist upon.

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If not by international negotiation then in no way can the silver problem be solved. The matter is reduced down to this point. No one nation is able to bring gold and silver to a party. It would require the united action of three or four of the great commercial nations of the world. If, therefore, there are to be no more negotiations on the subject, but each nation is to act for itself, then the silver problem will never be solved to the satisfaction of the people of this country. Of course, this cannot forever stand in their present unsatisfactory condition. But we can stand it as long as England and India can stand it. Hope for the best results, work for the best results, and you may yet be successful in establishing a universal currency of gold and silver, or rather, based upon gold and silver.

The Future of Silver.

If India imposes a tax or tariff upon silver imported into that country silver will indeed be a proscribed metal. It is probable that such action on her part would still further depress the price of silver, not in the United States only, nor in India, but in the world.

All the so-called compromises which have been offered in the United States Senate up to this writing seem to us to be totally destitute of merit. We cannot see the wisdom of passing a new law which would provide for purchasing so much silver per month by the government. To purchase any amount of it, however small, would be to resort to the same "miserable subterfuge" which the Sherman silver-law is represented to be, that is, would be to reduce silver to the condition of a mere commodity. Nevertheless, let Congress give us some measure upon which to base hopes of better times. "From seeming evil" let us "deduce good." Nothing can be worse than the stagnation in business which will continue to be experienced until some measure of relief is secured upon. Anything will be better than nothing—anything that even promises to lift the nightmare which now sits upon the breast of the financial world.

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